

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00766 261031Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4464

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0766

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PA

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS

1. ON MY CALL ON PRESIDENT STROESSNER FEBRUARY 24 AFTER MY RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE HE ASKED ME ABOUT MY CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON. THIS GAVE ME A CHANCE TO INFORM HIM OF THE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY POLITICAL PRISONERS AND INDIANS.

2. ON PRISONERS, STROESSNER LIMITED HIMSELF TO REITERATING THAT THOSE DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL (SOME FOR YEARS) ARE SERIOUS SECURITY RISKS AND TERRORISTS.

3. STROESSNER SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS INTERESTED THAT INDIANS BE TREATED WELL, PARTICULARLY SINCE EVERY PARAGUAYAN INCLUDING HIMSELF HAD SOME INDIAN BLOOD AND WAS PROUD OF IT. HE SAID HE WAS SORRY TO SEE THAT A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO BESMIRCH PARAGUAY'S REPUTATION IN THE WORLD PRESS AND THAT THE REPORTS OF ALLEGED MISTREATMENT HAD EITHER BEEN COMPLETELY FALSIFIED OR GREATLY EXAGGERATED. NOTING THAT I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN INDIAN AFFAIRS, I TOLD HIM THAT I MIGHT CONSULT WITH SOME OF HIS MINISTERS FOR DETAILED EXPLANATIONS WHENEVER WE HAD ANY SPECIFIC CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES.

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